

Application No.: 10/075,840

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Docket No.: 495812001400

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 36-61 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 36, 37, and 40-43 have been amended, and claims 38-39 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-14, 36-37, and 40-61 are currently under consideration. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable.

Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 5, 6, 37, 38, 46, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Fuji Xerox (JP 2000-268380 A). As discussed below, these claims have been cancelled or amended to included allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the above-cited rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-14 and 50-61 stand allowed. Claims 2-4, 7, 36, 39-45, 47, and 48 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 7 as objected to. Therefore claim 1 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, claims 5-7 are likewise allowable.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 2 as objected to. Therefore claim 2 is allowable. Because it depends directly from claim 2, claim 3 is likewise allowable.

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 4 as objected to. Therefore claim 4 is allowable.

Claim 36 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 36 as objected to. Therefore claim 36 is allowable.

Independent claim 37 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 39 as objected to. Therefore claim 37 is allowable. Because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 37, claim 40, and 46-49 are likewise allowable.

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Claim 41 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 41 as objected to. Therefore claim 41 is allowable.

Claim 42 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 42 as objected to. Therefore claim 42 is allowable.

Claim 43 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 43 as object to. Therefore claim 43 is allowable. Because they depend directly from claim 43, claims 44-45 are likewise allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that the above cited objection be withdrawn.

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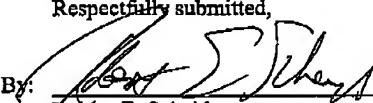
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 495812001400. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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